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Espionage Trail Leads to Norwegian

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OSLO, Jan. 27—On Thursday, Arne Treholt, chief of the press section of Norway's Foreign Ministry, arranged the press conference of U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz in Oslo.

On Friday, the affable 41-year-old diplomat was arrested at Oslo airport and charged with spying for the Soviet Union.

By Saturday night, his initial testimony filled 60 typewritten

pages. Treholt is still talking one week later, Norwegian police said today. Treholt, who was stalked by Norwegian and American agents in New York, Helsinki, Vienna and Oslo, had reached the end of the road.

The Norwegian government said yesterday it was recalling its ambassador to the Soviet Union and appointing a special commission to evaluate the damage done by Treholt's alleged espionage.

Arne Treholt's career in government took off at breakneck speed in 1972 when he was picked as personal secretary and later as deputy minister to Jens Evensen.

Evensen, a leading authority on international law, headed Norway's Ministry of Trade from 1973. From 1974 to 1979, he was Minister of the Law of the Sea, and conducted all negotiations on behalf of Norway during various conferences about the U.N. Law of the Sea Treaty. He also negotiated over the maritime dividing line on the continental shelf in the Barents Sea with the Soviet Union.

As personal secretary to Evensen, Treholt was familiar with Norway's emergency supply plans for energy and for energy storage. A

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thorough review of those plans was undertaken during the Middle East war of October 1973 and the subsequent Arab oil embargo. Most of that information is now dated, since Norway has become an oil-exporting nation.

During that same time, the ministry also reviewed top-secret plans for wartime use of Norway's merchant navy.

Treholt was also well-connected. He knew practically the entire leadership of the Norwegian Labor Party. He was known to be very close to Evensen, who had trained him as a diplomat and a politician. "He was like a son to me," Evensen said when told of the arrests.

In 1976, at 33, Treholt became a deputy trade minister, holding that position until 1979 when the ministry was abolished. He was then taken into Norway's foreign service outside the usual channels and was posted to the Norwegian delegation at the United Nations headquarters in New York as a counselor.

He was by that time already under suspicion, police sources said, and in September 1980 the Norwegian police asked the FBI to put him under surveillance. According to an official statement by the prosecutor general today, Treholt was observed having "conspiratorial meetings" with a Soviet diplomat, Vladimir Zhizhin, in the United Nations and at various restaurants in New York. Zhizhin had served in the Soviet Embassy in Oslo in the mid-1970s.

The police had suspected the presence of a Soviet mole in the Norwegian government since the arrest in January 1976 of a clerk in the Foreign Ministry, Gunvor Galtung Haavik. Galtung Haavik, charged with having been hired as an agent by the Soviets in the 1940s, was to die in prison before her case came to trial.

But her statements, hinting at another Soviet agent inside the Norwegian government, prompted the police to do a thorough survey of all personnel. Acting with extreme caution, they began taking a closer look at Treholt, the chief prosecutor said.

An active leftist, Arne Treholt came into prominence in the late 1960s as a member of the Norwegian Committee Against the Dictatorship in Greece. He was a student and a journalist—charming, intelligent, carefree, a good sportsman who had a way with women. He also had a retentive memory.

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